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*The humble Reply of the Company of White-Paper-Makers, in Answer to a printed Paper, Intituled, Mr. Johnson's Case; and Another, Intituled, The Case and Circumstances of Paper-Making.*

**T**HE Company in several printed Papers (delivered to the House of Commons, and to this most Honourable House) have set forth the Designs of the *French* King, his Ambassador, and Agents, to hinder the Establishment of the Manufacture of Writing and Printing-Paper in *England*, and how far the Paper-Sellers were in Confederacy with others to effect the same: and in regard the said Paper-Sellers, and *Johnson*, who was one of the Confederates, do utterly deny it, and have delivered several printed Papers to this most Honourable House, to vindicate themselves; the Company doubt not but to prove that they were guilty not only of what hath been charged upon them, but that they are still prosecuting the said Design, in opposing the passing this Bill.

It would be too tedious to answer both the Papers which were delivered last Saturday to this most Honourable House, paragraph by paragraph.

In general therefore, *Johnson* sets forth, That his Father being one of the most eminent Paper-Makers in *France*, designed to settle in *England*, and sent one *Juilhard* a Workman before-hand; That his Father was prosecuted for the same, and threatned to be sent to the Gallies, unless he got him back again; And that for attempting it, he was prosecuted, convicted, and fined 500 *l.* so that what he did (if he be to be believed) proceeded from a filial Affection to his Father.

In Answer to which, tho the said *Johnson* thinks all the Companies Witnesses are gone, who are able to prove to the contrary, yet there are sufficient left to testify how far he hath been instrumental in ruining the Manufacture, not only in taking away *Juilhard*, but several others of their Servants from their Mills, who were never concerned with his Father, nor ever saw his Face; and therefore he cannot pretend that he did send them over to keep his Father from being troubled; but in plain terms his Design was to hinder the Establishment of the Manufacture in *England*, the Company having Witnesses to prove that *Johnson* said, If the Manufacture went forward in *England*, it would ruin his Father and him. Besides, it may be supposed, when *Johnson* printed his Case, he little thought that some of the Ambassador's Letters should happen to fall in the Companies Hands, which Letters the Company are ready to produce before this Honourable House, which will fully prove the Truth of the same.

Over and above which, the Company can prove by good Witnesses, that this was not the first Exploit of that Nature which *Johnson* was guilty of, but that he was so zealous in hindring the setting up the Manufacture, that about ten Years ago, he rid above a hundred Miles to corrupt some Persons Servants, who were endeavouring to set up the Manufacture in this Kingdom, and did effectually perform it: so that notwithstanding this his formal Story, in the printed Paper, it appears that his Father (by his own Confession) being one of the eminentest Paper-Makers in *France*, he was afraid it would prejudice him in his Trade, if the Manufacture went forward in *England*.

As to the other printed Paper offered by the Paper-Sellers, intituled, *The Case and Circumstances of Paper-Making*; though much might be said in Answer thereunto, the Company for Brevity sake do only humbly take notice to this most Honourable House of some Inconsistencies contained therein, they setting forth in the fourth and fifth Paragraphs, that not 50000 *l.* worth of Paper is imported in a Year, and that the Company cannot get Materials to make 2500 *l.* worth of Paper in a Year; and yet they declare in the tenth and twelfth Paragraphs, if the Company are permitted to make the same, a hundred Paper-Mills and all Dependents thereon will be destroyed, and the Paper-Makers with above a thousand Families ruined; besides the Paper-Sellers who are very numerous, will be impoverished.

And to show how desirous they are to have the Manufacture established in *England*, they say in the 5th Paragraph, that if Paper be made here, it will discourage Navigation.

The Company having been at a vast expence in setting up the Manufacture of Writing and Printing-Paper in *England*, which could never yet be accomplished till performed by them, and the said Company having met with very great Opposition from the *French* King, and his Ambassador, and Agents, with whom these Paper-Sellers have combined; and the said Paper-Sellers Designs being (as they have given out) to obstruct the passing the said Bill by Delays, which they propose to do either by exhibiting fresh Petitions, or getting some Alterations to be made. And forasmuch as the losing the benefit of this Sessions may discourage the Company in establishing the Manufacture, which they resolve to set up in all parts of the Nation, if they meet with Encouragement, they do humbly submit the same to the wise Determination of this most Honourable House.